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Economic developer position cut due to TIF budget shortfall

The local economy has had a big impact on Hoopeston's economic developer.

Dana Goodrum, who has held that post since October, was told Wednesday that her position was cut for budgetary reasons, effective that day.

"It was a surprise to me," Goodrum said in a telephone interview Thursday morning.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, city finance committee chairman, said officials saw maintaining an economic development director was not going to be feasible while



GOODRUM

working on the 2009-10 budget.

The position is funded primarily through the city's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) fund, which had a budgeted \$55,000 loss for the year.

Hoopeston expects \$212,000 in income from TIFs 1, 2, and 3. Of that, \$30,000 is earmarked for TIF administration by Jacobs & Associates, Goodwine said.

The next biggest line item - at \$71,799 - is economic development. Of that, \$46,500

See DEVELOPER on other side

HRCH to hold 12th annual Charity Golf Classic July 17

Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation will host the 12th Annual Charity Golf Classic on Friday, July 17, at Hubbard Trail Country Club.

The Golf Classic promises a fun-filled day for all players and many prizes will be awarded for various contests. Featured prize this year is an evening at House of Blues in Chicago with dinner in the exclusive Foundation Room along with tickets to a concert and tickets to the World Famous Sunday Gospel Brunch, a package valued at at least \$300 depending on the concert selected. Cash prizes of \$200 and \$300 will be awarded for Peoria Handicap and Low Score teams.

Other contests will include a chance for a car for a hole-in-one, a poker hand hole and two 50/50's. Many great prizes have been donated by area businesses for this Charity Golf Classic.

Two flights are offered: 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The event is a four person scramble, 18 holes with lunch, greens fees and cart included in entry fee.

Charlene Ervin, Foundation Executive Director, commented "this year's Golf Classic promises to be the best

ever with a specially catered luncheon and the best prizes we've ever offered to players. It's a great day to come out and play 18 holes on a beautiful course and meet some terrific people who work at our hospital, nursing home, clinic and senior living apartments and maybe walk away with some nice gifts. This outing draws many players from the area and we'd love to have more interested players fill the few vacancies we have

See GOLF on other side

Fish Fry
 5-8 p.m. Friday
American Legion



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Developer continued from other side

was set as the director's salary and an additional \$13,500 for director's medical insurance. The remainder was for Social Security and unemployment payments and \$8,000 for such things as seminars and travel.

Also coming out of TIF money are \$10,000 for the city's façade program; \$22,000 for reimbursable expenses to CVS for its development; and \$25,000 each for school projects and miscellaneous expenses.

Those expenditures left a balance of about \$29,000, but there were still budgeted expenses totaling \$83,500, in-

cluding \$42,000 to move sewer lines for the new motel; \$20,000 for unexpected motel costs; \$10,000 to repair the Willdon Building roof; and \$11,500 to Shaw Environmental for work to wrap up the city's part in receiving a No Further Remediation letter for property at Rtes. 1 and 9 where the motel is to be located, Goodwine said.

As of March 1, Hoopeston's TIF fund had \$549,000 in it but the shortfall budgeted for this year, along with \$400,000 pledged for the proposed Affordable Workforce Housing project, leaves little for anything else.

Looking at the numbers, Goodwine said the city council decided a full time director "was not a sustainable model for economic development."

Goodrum wishes she'd received more notice. However, "if that's really why they did it, I'm proud of the city for making a tough decision."

She is concerned about the timing, while she is "in the middle of multiple projects that the city really needs. Unfortunately, I think the benefits of what we've been seeing and what we will be seeing in the next six months won't be worth the cost (of eliminating her position.)

Goodwine said the city council and economic devel-

opment steering committee will pick up much of the work. He also hopes to take advantage of assistance from Vermilion Advantage and especially Todd Lee.

Goodrum, a Hoopeston native, had served at the University of Illinois/Springfield, where she was a residen-

Police News



Jacqueline K. Ciszewski, 20, of Lewsiburg, Tenn., was arrested after an incident at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the 1000 block of West Penn. She was charged with battery on a complaint from a 20-year-old Hoopeston woman and was released with a date in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Mary E. Vaughn, 36, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 10:56 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of North Eighth Ave. on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear/status check. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Golf continued from other side

for each flight."

"Through fundraising and donor contributions the Foundation has provided many programs to the area including KidCare ID fingerprinting and photo identification to all area schools, furnishings and equipment for campus departments, health and education programs and a major sponsoring of the new transport van for campus residents. Fundraising events like the Golf Classic and the current Disney World trip contest are crucial to the Foundation to make those types of contributions to the healthcare facilities at Hoopeston Regional Health Center or to create funds for even larger projects."

Those interested in more information or in signing up a team may call Ervin at 217-283-9215. Entries must be received by Monday, July 13th.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 86. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 70. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms, then partly cloudy. High 87, low 65. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 84, low 62.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area School District is seeking applications for the following positions:

Bus Driver Start date will be August 20, 2009

Substitute Bus Drivers Start Date will be August 20, 2009

Cafeteria Substitute Cafeteria Workers

Application deadline is July 13, 2009. Applications are available in the Superintendent's Office, 615 E. Orange, Hoopeston. Office hours are 7:30-12:00, 1:00-4:00.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Rossville: 206 Church. 2 BR, basement. \$475/mo.+ deposit. No pets. Available August. For application, call (217) 304-3477

HOUSES FOR SALE

Very nice 3 BR, 1 BA home at 842 E. Orange St. New kitchen with new appliances, new bath, carpeting & hardwood flooring, 2 1/2 car garage, full basement, new siding, windows, foundation, fenced in yard. Phone 249-6323 or 283-6323 for appointment

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Cross Tread Adjustable ladder rack, fits any truck \$100; Delta Champion diamond plate truck tool box \$50; Whitfield Wood Pellet Stove Works Great Little rust \$500.

RUMMAGE SALES

423 W. Elm, Hoopeston. Sat., 8-nmoon. Tools, collectibles, antique furniture, end tables, lamps, wicker rockers, bedroom outfit, twin beds, Wheelhorse lawn cart, Deere lawn sweeper and much more.

618 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. Fri., 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat., 8-noon. Clothes, toys, dishes, Maytag dryer, misc.

424 N. Tenth Ave., Hoopeston. Sat., 8-? Clothes, furniture, pictures, knickknacks. Combining two houses into one!

322 N. Seventh St., Hoopeston. Sat., 8 a.m. 3 family sale (Platteter, Alexander & Morgeson. Little Tikes, TV w/DVD, clothing (all sizes), holiday decorations, craft supplies, toys. Longaberger products, stereo, bike rack, hunting gear, misc.

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